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**About TrustAfrica**

TrustAfrica is an independent foundation that strives to secure the conditions for democracy and equitable development throughout the continent.

Led by Africans, we convene dialogues, catalyze ideas, and provide grants and technical assistance to organizations working to advance these goals.

Our programs focus on:
- Governance
- Equitable Development
- African Philanthropy

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**Strengthening Civil Society in Liberia**

Many years of civil strife and bad governance in Liberia have eroded public confidence in the nation’s public sector, which has been characterized by a lack of effectiveness and transparency. Limited government capacity across the country is further compounded by low rates of literacy that undermine citizens’ ability to become more effectively engaged in shaping government priorities.

The Liberian Civil Society Initiative provides support to Liberian civil society organizations that are advocating for policies that promote democracy and development. The initiative is implemented using TrustAfrica’s toolbox of flexible grant making, technical assistance, and convenings of policy advocates and policy makers.

The initiative has awarded more than 50 grants totaling approximately US$4 million over the last five years. Grant awardees are typically the leading pro-democracy, human rights and media development organizations working in Liberia. Now in its third phase, the initiative is focusing on harnessing civil society’s collective voices to monitor the lucrative extractives industry in Liberia.

**Project Goals**

The LCSI operates within a theory of change that a well-resourced, skilled, proactive and transparent civil society is absolutely essential to pro-poor national development and inclusive democracy. As such, the project aims to:

- Reinforce civil society programming capacity to monitor government policies and engage in effective advocacy;
- Enhance the technical capacity and skills of Liberian civil society organizations in the critical analysis of government agreements, especially in the natural resource sector;
• Empower local communities through the interventions of civil society organizations to constructively engage local authorities on issues of local governance.

Our Impact

Support from the Liberia Civil Society Initiative has contributed to the following milestones and achievements:

• Passage of Liberia’s Freedom of Information Act in 2010, thanks in part to the advocacy and programming efforts of the Press Union of Liberia and other media organizations.

• Liberia’s first Civil Society Index Research, which identifies key entry points and challenges within Liberian civil society sector. It was conducted in partnership with CIVICUS.

• The development of Liberia’s first Media Assistance Strategy and Media Quality Barometer, which defines areas for development in the media and assesses the performance of leading media establishments on a regular basis.

• A significant boost in the capacity of more than 20 leading Liberian civil society organizations through tailor-made trainings on program management, monitoring and evaluation, and board governance. This work was conducted in partnership with the West African Civil Society Institute.